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July 2, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT
June 30, 1959

Others present: Dr. Glennan, Dr. Killian
Mr. Phillips, General Goodpaster

Dr. Glennan reviewed the items to come up in the Space Council meeting later in the day. He stressed the item on ground support of the national space vehicle program, including tracking facilities. The key question is how to get in position to make decisions on this. Dr. Killian said it could be suggested that the Secretary of Defense, Director of NASA, and Dr. Kistiakowsky take this up, after the Department of Defense has clarified its view and its internal position on this matter. The President said he thought these should be under one single system. Dr. Glennan agreed but pointed out that provision may have to be made for differing technical equipment, related to differing space activities. He had no doubt, however, that it should be under a single, defined management.

There was brief discussion of the other items to come before the meeting, most of which seemed to be quite straightforward.

The President commented that the Congress is showing some tendency toward cutting the space budget. He told Dr. Glennan that we must be very sure that we can justify every program. He said he had no idea of cutting any particular item at the present time himself. He felt it was necessary, however, to have a range of projects, the lower limit being those that are wholly justified for operational or scientific purposes, and the upper including some that are planned for psychological reasons. Dr. Glennan said the cuts are being made without the exercise of much real discretion.

The President recalled that the Senate Majority Leader had made great speeches when the country was stirred up on this matter,


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calling for going all-out on crash operations. Now the opposition in the Congress seems to be cutting the program back. If this is to be a party issue, he said he wanted to be very sure that we have our "ducks in a row," and can back up every project we propose. The President further commented that while others proposed great crash programs, the Administration had tried to follow a sane, sound and orderly course. Dr. Glennan requested the President to support the budget initially submitted by the Administration, calling for a supplemental appropriation of \$45 million in FY-59 and a budget of \$485.3 million in Fy-60. The President asked him to draw up a statement of exactly what was involved.

The President then discussed briefly with Dr. Killian and Dr. Glennan the Soviet Sputniks, models of which he had seen at the Soviet Exhibition in New York the previous day.


A. J. Goodpaster
Brigadier General, USA

